

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 FRB-01

OMB-01 USIA-15 AID-05 NSC-05 SS-15 CEA-01 L-03

PA-02 PRS-01 ITC-01 CTME-00 /105 W

-----001099 022244Z /41

R 020530Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9540

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 0519

GENEVA FOR PHELAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, HK

SUBJECT: TEXTILE VISA SYSTEM AND TECHNICAL PROBLEMS

REF: A) STATE 289380 B) HONG KONG 15330 C) STATE 310619

D) STATE 194460 E) STATE 310620 F) STATE 023162

1. FOLLOWING ARE SOME POINTS AND SOME USG VIEWS REGARDING ADMINISTRATION OF VISA AGREEMENT WHICH MAY BE DISCUSSED DURING U.S. DEL MEETINGS WITH HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

2. REFTEL A PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR A LETTER THAT WOULD AMEND THE VISA AGREEMENT SO THAT SHIPMENTS VALUED AT LESS THAN \$250 WILL NOT BE DENIED ENTRY DUE TO AN INCORRECT CATEGORY DESIGNATION ON THE VISA. IN REFTEL B HK REPLIED THAT TICD WISHED TO MAINTAIN CORRECT CATEGORY REQUIREMENT FOR SHIPMENTS VALUED UNDER \$250. HOWEVER, U.S. CUSTOMS IS UNABLE TO POLICE CORRECT CATEGORY REQUIREMENT FOR SUCH SHIPMENTS. TO PRECLUDE DIS-

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CREPANCY BETWEEN U.S. CUSTOMS PRACTICE AND LANGUAGE OF VISA AGREEMENT, U.S. SUGGESTED EXCHANGE OF LETTERS AS CONVEYED IN REFTEL A.

3. EXCHANGE OF LETTERS AS CONVEYED IN REFTEL A WOULD EFFECT REQUIREMENT FOR DESIGNATION ON VISA OF SUB-CATEGORY AND QUANTITY FOR SHIPMENTS CLASSIFIED IN

MERGED CATEGORIES WITH SUB-CATEGORY CEILINGS. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS ALREADY IS TICD PRACTICE, RE REFTEL C.

4. PARAGRAPH 5 OF VISA AGREEMENT NOW REQUIRES USG TO DENY ENTRY TO APPAREL EXPORTED IN 1977 WITH PROPER 1977 VISA IF OFFERED FOR ENTRY ON OR AFTER JUNE 1, 1978. THIS REQUIREMENT IS POTENTIAL ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN ON U.S. CUSTOMS AND U.S. IMPORTERS, AS WELL AS ON TICD AND HK EXPORTERS. ACCORDINGLY, FIFTH PARAGRAPH OF LETTER AMENDING VISA AGREEMENT CONVEYED IN REFTEL A COULD READ: "FINALLY, I PROPOSE THAT TEXTILE APPAREL PRODUCTS VISAED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES AND WHICH HAVE BEEN EXPORTED TO THE U.S. PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 1978 SHALL NOT BE DENIED ENTRY."

5. DURING NEGOTIATIONS ON BILATERAL AGREEMENT, USG AGREED SHOE UPPERS FROM HK WOULD BE CHARGED TO CATEGORY 369 RATHER THAN 359. AS OF FEBRUARY 1, SHOE UPPERS ARE BEING CLASSIFIED IN CATEGORY 369 AND VISA NO LONGER REQUIRED.

6. RE CROWSON LETTER (REF F) USG WOULD WISH TO MAKE SURE THAT THE EXEMPT SHIPMENTS ARE "VALUED UNDER \$250" AND NOT \$250 OR LESS "AND, TO PREVENT EXQUOTA EXPORTATION OF MULTIPLE SHIPMENTS TO RETAIN OUTLETS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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A SINGLE FIRM, WOULD SUBSTITUTE "INDIVIDUAL OR FIRM" IN PLACE OF "CONSIGNEE."

7. USG, OF COURSE, WILLING TO DISCUSS ANY OTHER TECHNICAL MATTER WHICH HK GOVERNMENT WISHES TO RAISE.  
HOLDRIDGE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXTILES, AGREEMENTS, VISAS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 78 STATE 289380, 78 HONG KONG 15330, 78 STATE 310619  
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**Review Markings:**  
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